

App. No. 09/682,089

In the Claims:

Claims 1-13 (cancelled)

Claim 14. (Original) A method for peer-to-peer fault detection for distributed, shared media networks, the method comprising the steps of:

Having a distributed network comprising a group of nodes sharing a common communication network supporting point-to-point and broadcast messaging;

Using peer-to-peer logic fault detection in which each node finds a pair to establish a peer-to-peer checking mechanism at network power up;

Reporting any irregular or non-received responses;

Having a node that does not have a node pair send a status report to a paired node; and

Having the paired node report any irregular status but not send a reply check message to the node.

Claims 15, 16, and 17 (cancelled)

Claim 18. (Original) A network device for peer-to-peer fault detection for distributed, shared media networks comprising :

A distributed network comprising a group of nodes sharing a common communication network supporting point-to-point and broadcast messaging;

A fault detection means using peer-to-peer logic fault detection in which each node finds a pair to establish a peer-to-peer checking mechanism at network power up;

A reporting means reporting any irregular or non-received responses;

Having a node that does not have a node pair send a status report to a paired node; and

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Having the paired node report any irregular status but not send a reply check message.

Claims 19 and 20 (cancelled)